

D1  
conced.

of the bird prior to evisceration of the carcass of the bird, wherein the at least one tissue connection is broken at least partially by introducing separating means into the carcass of the bird through a hole in the skin and moving the separating means within the carcass in a substantially horizontal plane.

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D2

62. (Thrice Amended) A device for processing a slaughtered bird suspended by its legs prior to evisceration of the bird comprising separating means for breaking tissue connections between the belly skin and the viscera, wherein the separating means is adapted to move in a substantially horizontal plane.

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D3  
cont.

67. (Thrice Amended) A method for breaking at least one tissue connection between the belly skin and the viscera of a slaughtered bird prior to evisceration of the carcass of the bird comprising inserting a substantially elongated element with a free end under the skin of the belly of the slaughtered bird which is provided with a hole in the skin, wherein inserting the elongated element comprises:

inserting a protection element through the hole and into the bird, wherein the protection element comprises a stop face adapted for pushing away the viscera from the hole;

positioning the free end of the elongated element in the hole near the stop face;

and

rotating the elongated element about a substantially vertical axis to insert the free end of the elongated element under the skin and to move the free end of the elongated element away from the stop face.